

NETWORK BASED SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR UNIVERSAL PRINTING

ABSTRACT

A universal printing system of the present invention is provided for remotely accessing and printing documents on any internet addressable printer. The universal printing system includes at least one remote communication device (RCD), a printer object or "remote printer", and a network addressable device linked to the RCD and the remote printer. The network addressable device is constructed of various software components or processes operating on a communications network, such as the Internet for example. The network addressable device includes a document storage assembly and a universal remote interface assembly linked to the document storage assembly and the printer object. The universal remote interface assembly receives a document command from the RCD via a document command message sent in a SMTP code structure. The document command is provided for accessing the document storage assembly and for transmitting a print job command to the printer object in an internet addressable protocol code structure. In addition, the document command may include the additional operating instructions of finding a document and synchronizing between documents as well as publishing a document content index. Optionally, with a document contact card attached with the document command message, the network addressable device optimally references a desired document for implementing a document command thereto. In effect, through the network addressable device, a user of a RCD stores, retrieves, and/or prints documents on a remote printer in an internet addressable protocol code structure.